

**Chairman
Committee on Finance & Law**



Rev. Ricky V. Burgess

December 4, 2018

Tim Schmidt, President
United States Concealed Carry Association
1000 Freedom Way
West Bend, Wisconsin 53095

Dear President Schmidt:

I write to you today to protest the US Concealed Carry Association's (USCCA) plan to bring its Concealed Carry Expo to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in May 2019. The National Rifle Association has hosted two of its conventions here since 2001, the most recent in 2011. Events like these have no place in Pittsburgh.

I strongly urge you to cancel the United States Concealed Carry Association's "Concealed Carry Expo" gun show immediately.

Gun violence is a public health epidemic in this country. It accounts for 30,000 deaths a year, including suicides, and tens of thousands of injuries. There are more than 300 million guns in this country, and they are used to kill scores of innocent children, teens and young adults every day in low- and moderate-income urban neighborhoods like the ones I represent.

From the day I took office in 2008 to the end of last year, 549 of our loved ones were murdered in Pittsburgh. Over 80% of them were murdered with guns, and more than 75% of them were African-American. In addition to taking lives, gun violence decimates poorer communities, eliminating their business districts and depressing their property values. The shooting deaths of poor people and the destruction of their urban neighborhoods pay for the escalating profits of the nation's gun industry.

In addition, the mass shooting on October 27th at the Tree of Life Synagogue was horrific. All of the guns Robert Bowers used on that Saturday were legally purchased and stand as the most recent testament of the failure of our current gun laws. Our City and our region are still grieving over this national tragedy and the very last thing our City needs is an event advocating for expanded rights to carry concealed weapons on top of increased access to firearms.

Finally our city, state and federal governments need effective gun control policies. This should include a ban on all assault weapons and machinegun conversion devices, a limit on the number and types of firearms that can be purchased, more intensive mandatory background checks, longer waiting periods, federal registration of all guns and ammunition and the elimination of gun shows (where background checks are sporadic at best) like the Concealed Carry Expo. Please cancel this event immediately for the good of our City.

Sincerely yours,

Reverend Ricky V. Burgess
Pittsburgh City Council

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